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**The Truth about the Congo.** By **Frederick Starr.** viii and 129 pp., Illustrations. *Forbes & Company, Chicago, 1907.* (Price, \$1.)

This book, reproducing the articles written for the Chicago *Tribune* by Prof. Starr of Chicago University, undoubtedly expresses his unprejudiced judgment on what he saw in the Congo Free State. He was there for more than a year collecting anthropological data and he visited twenty-eight tribes. He saw the lower Congo, travelled thousands of miles on the upper river and two of its most important tributaries and was in constant contact with the three groups of white men—State officials, missionaries, and traders. He went there after reading literature from the Congo Reform Association of Boston, which prepared him, he says, to see all kinds of horrors:

I supposed that mutilations, cruelties, and atrocities of the most frightful kinds would everywhere present themselves. I expected to find the people everywhere suffering, mourning, and unhappiness.

He did not see any of the frightful outrages he had expected to meet, but he takes pains to say that he did not visit the comparatively small district governed by the A. B. I. R. (Anglo-Belgian-Indian-Rubber) Company to which, according to Viscount Mountmorres, the outrages were chiefly confined. Professor Starr does not believe the conditions in that district were so appalling as newspaper reports would indicate; but he did find in many places a condition of the negro population far happier than he had supposed possible. He saw many hundreds of natives who were "working happily, living in good houses, dressing in good clothes of European stuff and pattern and saving property. That this number will rapidly increase I have no doubt." He came home believing that things in Congo Land are not so bad and that improvement is the order of the day.

He says there is inhumanity and outrage on the Congo and so there is in the United States. But he points out the fact that Mr. Morel's map, on which small crosses show the places where atrocities are said to have occurred, does not show any marks of reported atrocities in the districts where the white man's influence has most fully penetrated.

Prof. Starr criticises some things that he saw and praises others. He reports the climate as very trying, but tells of 55 Finns who entered the service of the State six years ago. Fifty-one were still alive and three of the four dead had been drowned. He regards the conditions of life, however, as terribly trying for white men and quotes the statement of one of them: "We are all a little crazy here; it is the sun. You must not mind it." The author says that men on the slightest provocation will fly into the most dreadful fits of anger.

Starr and Mountmorres give directly contrary evidence about the treatment of the State agents by the Government. The former says the State agent is underfed and badly nourished, while Mountmorres goes into much detail to show how amply his wants are supplied and with what special care the Government endeavours to promote his well being in every way.

Neither of these able investigators had any axe to grind and both reached practically the same conclusion concerning the "Congo Atrocities." Prof. Starr's book throws much light on the present state of things in the Congo Free State and it should be read by all who are interested in the progress of Africa.

**Les Différents Systèmes d'Irrigation.** 7<sup>me</sup> Série, Tome 1. 623 pp., and Index. *Institut Colonial International, Brussels, 1906.*

The volume begins the seventh series of the publications of the International Colonial Institute. The series will be devoted to the legislation now in force in

various countries relating to irrigation. Volume I treats of the irrigation laws of British India and the East (Tonkin, Annam, and the deltas of the Mekong and Menam). The succeeding volumes will deal with irrigation laws of the Dutch East Indies, Egypt, North Africa, Spain, Italy, the United States, Canada, Chile, Peru, etc.

Volume I opens with a concise and illuminative article by Sir Alfred Lyall on the general subject of irrigation in India in which he describes the great benefits conferred upon the inhabitants of vast districts where, in some years, rainfall is sparse or fails completely. He shows the necessity for scientific regulation of the development and maintenance of irrigation works; describes the *régime* of the two principal irrigation systems in India, (1) the diversion of the water of rivers into canals and (2) the accumulation in reservoirs or cisterns of water flowing off the lands after important rainfall; compares the two irrigation systems and treats of the topographic influences that affect the extent and the distribution of irrigation.

Four sections give the irrigation laws in force in various parts of India. On each page under the French text is printed the English original. India has 510 pages and the concluding 93 pages are given to the *régime* of irrigation in other countries above noted and the laws relating to them.

This book relating to a part of the world where scientific irrigation is already far advanced cannot fail to be useful in other countries which have only recently begun to develop irrigation on a large scale.

**The Cherokee Indians. With Special Reference to their Relations with the United States Government. By Thomas Valentine Parker.** viii and 116 pp., Sketch Map, Illustrations and Bibliography. The Grafton Press, New York, 1907. (Price, \$1.25.)

The author's aim is to exhibit the policies of the Federal Government in its treatment, during more than a century, of the Cherokees. He sets forth the story of blunder, injustice, and dishonesty that marked the Government's relations with these Indians. He tells of their final removal by compulsion from the small part of their original territory still left to them and how 4,000 of them perished during the terrible march to the Indian Territory.

Even in the earliest days of the Republic, the Cherokees were probably the most intelligent Indian nation and farther advanced in civilization than any other. The promise of their future, however, did not save them from the bitterest injustice. But the years of strife are finally over and the Cherokees will start anew, each as the owner of a bit of land; and when these Indians are enrolled among the citizens of the State of Oklahoma the end of their stormy history may be reached. To all who wish to judge for themselves of the relations between the Cherokees and our Government, this narrative, written both with sympathy and impartiality, is to be highly commended.

**Klimakunde. 1 Allgemeine Klimalehre. Von Prof. Dr. W. Köppen.** Second, improved Edition. 132 pp., 7 Tables, 2 Figures, and Index. G. J. Göschen'sche Verlagshandlung, Leipzig, 1906. (Price, 80 pf.)

This little work appears in the excellent "Sammlung Göschen." The seven chapters treat of the content of climatology, meteorological observations, climatic research, factors, types, zones, water vapour, etc. A list of the best works of reference is given. At once a scientific work and adapted for the general reader.